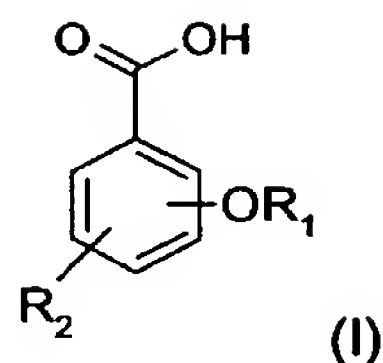


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What is claimed is:

1. The use of a compound of formula (I)



wherein

R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted C_6 - C_{30} alkyl or substituted or unsubstituted C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, and

R_2 is H, COOH or substituted or unsubstituted O- C_1 - C_{30} alkyl, in the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted C_8 - C_{20} alkyl.

3. Use according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation or disinfection of the skin, oral or other mucosa, the surfaces of the teeth, or hair.

4. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in disinfection or deodorisation.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in the treatment of textile fibre materials.

6. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in preservation.

7. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in washing and cleaning formulations.

8. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in imparting antimicrobial properties to or preserving plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

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9. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used in imparting antimicrobial properties to or preserving commercial products.

10. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein a compound of formula (I) is used as a biocide in an industrial process.

11. A personal care preparation comprising

- a) from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation, of a compound of formula (I) defined according to claim 1, and
- b) cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

12. An oral composition comprising

- a) from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (I) defined according to claim 1, and
- b) orally tolerable adjuvants.

13. The non-therapeutic use of a compound of formula (I) in preventing the build-up of a biofilm of microorganisms and/or in removing a biofilm and/or in inhibiting or destroying microorganisms that form a biofilm.